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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
2000

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TEXT

TAGS: CVIS, (DUDAR, STEPHAN BRUNO; AKA GOSSLING
(UMLAUT OVER THE O); AKA GOSSLING; AKA GOASSLING; AKA
GOES/LING; AKA TERLECKI VON URNKOWITZ; AKA TERLECKI;
AKA VON URNKOWITZ)
COMBINE: COMPLETE

SUBJECT: 212(SMALL A) (3) (E) (SMALL I) SAO REQUEST

L.VISAS DONKEY

2. NAME: DUDAR, STEFAN BRUNO; AKA GOSSLING (UMLAUT
OVER THE O); AKA GOSSLING; AKA GOASSLING; AKA
GOESSLING; AKA TERLECKI VON URNKOWITZ; AKA TERLECKI;
AKA VON URNKOWITZ.
NATIONALITY: FRENCH; PRESUMED FORMERLY GERMAN;
POSSIBLY FORMERLY POLISH.
DOB: APRIL 6, 1920
POB: DANZIG, POLAND (AKA GDANSK; AKA DANTZIG)
OCCUPATION: RETIRED PIPEFITTER
VISA CATEGORY: IR-1

FOR COORDINATION WITH ed State

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2007

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APPLICATION RECEIVED: AUGUST 27, 1991
INTERVIEW DATE: OCTOBER 29, 1991
TRAVEL DATE: ASAP
FINAL DESTINATION: TARPON SPRINGS/LARGO FLORIDA

3. APPLICANT WAS FIRST INTERVIEWED BY CONOFF ON AUG. 27, 1991, AT WHICH TIME THE APPLICANT'S MAIN PROBLEM WAS THE NEED FOR A 212(I) WAIVER (HE IS INELIGIBLE UNDER INA 212(A)(6)(C) BECAUSE HE MADE A FALSE CLAIM OF CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP TO AN INS OFFICER IN ATTEMPTING TO GAIN ENTRY TO THE U.S.). WHEN CONOFF REVIEWED THE FILE AGAIN AFTER THE WAIVER WAS APPROVED HE NOTICED THAT THE APPLICANT HAD STATED ON HIS OF-230 THAT HE HAD BEEN IN LUGA, RUSSIA AS A GERMAN SOLDIER FROM OCTOBER OF 1940 TO OCTOBER OF 1943. THIS CAUGHT CONOFF'S ATTENTION BECAUSE THE GERMAN INVASION OF THE SOVIET UNION DID NOT BEGIN UNTIL JUNE OF 1941. CONSULTING MARTIN GILBERT'S ATLAS OF RUSSIAN HISTORY, CONOFF DISCOVERED THAT LUGA WAS A CITY IN THE REAR AREA OF THE FORCES BESIEGING LENINGRAD. "THE GERMANS IN THE LENINGRAD REGION . . . WERE SUBJECTED TO CONTINUAL SABOTAGE BY PARTISAN BANDS OPERATING BEHIND THE FRONT LINE. DESPITE HARSH GERMAN REPRISALS AGAINST HUNDREDS OF VILLAGES, AND MASS EXECUTIONS OF WOMEN, CHILDREN AND OLD MEN, PARTISAN ACTIVITY GREW MORE EFFECTIVE WITH EACH MONTH OF THE WAR." LUGA IS SHOWN AS ONE OF THE AREAS OF "MAJOR GERMAN REPRISALS AGAINST CIVILIANS. OVER 200 VILLAGES IN THE LENINGRAD DISTRICT WERE BURNT TO THE GROUND BY THE GERMANS, MANY THOUSANDS OF VILLAGERS WERE KILLED, AND 30,000 WERE SENT TO GERMANY FOR FORCED LABOUR." IN LIGHT OF THIS INFORMATION, CONOFF DECIDED THAT HE SHOULD INTERVIEW THE APPLICANT TO SEE IF THERE WERE ANY OTHER DISCREPANCIES, AND TO DETERMINE THE NATURE OF DUDAR'S WAR DUTIES.

4. THE CHRONOLOGY OF MR. DUDAR'S LIFE, AS HE RELATED IT TO CONOFF, IS AS FOLLOWS. HE WAS BORN ON THE SHIP "ESPINADE" IN DANZIG HARBOR ON APRIL 6, 1920. HIS PARENTS WERE MARIA ANASTASIA DUDAR AND STEFAN TERLECKI VON URNKOWITZ, BOTH FROM LEMBERG IN GALLACIA, THE POLISH REGION OF THE AUSTRIAN EMPIRE. HIS PARENTS WERE NOT MARRIED; HIS FATHER WAS A MINOR NOBLE. THE SAME MONTH THAT HE WAS BORN HE AND HIS PARENTS MOVED TO GERMANY. HIS FATHER SOON MARRIED AN AMERICAN NURSE AND MOVED TO THE UNITED STATES. AT SOME POINT, HIS MOTHER MARRIED A GERMAN NAMED GOSSLING (UMLAUT OVER THE O). HIS STEP-FATHER ADOPTED HIM AND HE TOOK THE NAME GOSSLING (UMLAUT OVER THE O); HIS STEP-FATHER LATER WENT BEFORE NAZI OFFICIALS TO TESTIFY THAT HE WAS HIS SON IN ORDER TO PROVE THAT HE WAS OF ARYAN STOCK AND NOT POLISH. IN APPROXIMATELY OCTOBER OF 1940 DUDAR/GOSSLING JOINED OR WAS DRAFTED INTO, THE LUFTWAFFE AS AN ENLISTED MAN. HE DID ABOUT THREE MONTHS OF BASIC TRAINING IN KONIGSBERG, IN EAST PRUSSIA (NOW KALININGRAD, IN LITHUANIA), AND WAS THEN TRANSFERRED TO BERLIN TO A

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CAMP FOR RECRUITS AWAITING ASSIGNMENT, WHERE HE REMAINED FOR ABOUT SIX WEEKS. HIS WHEREABOUTS BETWEEN THIS TIME AND THE INVASION OF RUSSIA IN JUNE VISAS DONKEY

1941 ARE UNCLEAR.

5. HIS FIRST MISSION IN RUSSIA WAS IN THE LENINGRAD AREA AS AN OBSERVER ON A JUNKERS 88 BOMBER MODIFIED FOR RECONNAISSANCE. THE AIRPLANE WAS HEAVILY DAMAGED AND WAS UNABLE TO MAINTAIN ALTITUDE. APPARENTLY DUDAR BAILED OUT WITHOUT PERMISSION. THE AIRPLANE CRASHED IN A FOREST PORTLY AFTERWARDS. AT THE ENSUING COURT MARTIAL HE ESCAPED STRONG PUNISHMENT BY POINTING OUT TO THE COURT THAT HE HAD PRESERVED HIMSELF TO FIGHT FOR HITLER, WHILE THE PILOT AND CREW, WHO WERE IN BODY-CASTS, HAD HINDERED THE WAR EFFORT BY STAYING ABOARD THE AIRPLANE AND BECOMING DISABLED. HIS PUNISHMENT WAS TO SERVE WITH THE TROOPS AT THE FRONT FOR SIX WEEKS.

6. AFTER HIS SERVICE AT THE FRONT, HE CLAIMS TO HAVE SPENT THE REST OF HIS TIME IN RUSSIA DRIVING A TRUCK, SEARCHING FOR DOWNED AIRPLANES TO SALVAGE. HE WAS GIVEN THE COORDINATES OF THE CRASH SITE AND HIS JOB WAS TO DEAD-RECKON HIS WAY TO THE WRECK USING A COMPASS. DURING THIS PERIOD HIS RANK WAS "OBERGEFREITER", WHICH CORRESPONDS TO THE U.S. RANK OF CORPORAL. HE CLAIMED THAT THIS WAS NO SPECIAL DISTINCTION BECAUSE IT WAS NORMAL TO BE PROMOTED TO THIS RANK AFTER TWO YEARS OF SERVICE. HIS FIRST PRIORITY WAS TO SEE IF THERE WERE ANY SURVIVORS FROM THE PLANE CRASH, ALTHOUGH HE RELATED NO STORIES OF EVER HAVING FOUND ANY SURVIVORS. HIS NEXT PRIORITY WAS TO DISASSEMBLE AND SALVAGE WHATEVER HE COULD OF THE AIRPLANE, ESPECIALLY THE ENGINES. FOR THESE MISSIONS HE WAS ASSIGNED A CREW OF TEN LATVIAN "CIVILIANS".

7. DUDAR SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE LATVIANS WERE CIVILIANS (HE MENTIONED SEVERAL TIMES THAT THEY WERE CIVILIANS, EVEN WHEN CONFF PRESSED HIM ON THAT POINT) THEY WERE ALL ARMED WITH WORLD WAR I VINTAGE RIFLES, AND THAT IF ATTACKED BY PARTISANS, THEY WOULD SHOOT BACK INTO THE WOODS AND THE PARTISANS WOULD GO AWAY. THIS STRUCK CONOFF AS RATHER IMPLAUSIBLE, ESPECIALLY GIVEN THE REGION'S LARGE AMOUNT OF PARTISAN ACTIVITY; WHY THE PARTISANS WOULD NOT QUICKLY CAPTURE ELEVEN LIGHTLY ARMED MEN WANDERING AROUND THE FOREST IN A TRUCK WAS HARD TO UNDERSTAND.

8. HE DESCRIBED ONE OCCASION WHEN HE WAS INVITED BY AN OFFICER OF AN "SS" UNIT HE HAD ENCOUNTERED DURING HIS FOREST TRAVELS TO SPEND THE NIGHT IN THEIR BUNKER. (ACCORDING TO THE BRIEF CAMPAIGN HISTORIES AVAILABLE TO CONOFF OF ALL THE "SS" DIVISIONS, AT

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THIS TIME THE ONLY THREE POSSIBLE "SS" UNITS WOULD HAVE BEEN THE THIRD, FOURTH, OR THE THIRTY-SIXTH. BOTH THE THIRD AND THE FOURTH WERE DEFINITELY IN THE AREA OF LENINGRAD DURING THE TIME DUDAR WAS THERE; THE THIRTY-SIXTH WAS ONLY DESCRIBED AS HAVING PROVIDED REAR AREA SECURITY IN RUSSIA.)

9. DUDAR CLAIMED THAT HE DROVE THE RECOVERED AIRPLANE ENGINES AND PARTS ALL THE WAY TO WARSAW (500 MILES AWAY FROM LUGA BY A STRAIGHT LINE). CONOFF, KNOWING THAT LUGA WAS A RAILROAD AND HIGHWAY HUB, ASKED WHY THE PARTS WOULD NOT BE SENT BY TRAIN OR TAKEN TO A LOCAL LUFTWAFFE BASE. HE SAID THAT THE SOVIET AIR FORCE ATTACKED THE RAILROADS SO MUCH THAT THE PARTS WERE SENT BY TRUCK. WHY NOT TO A LOCAL BASE? HE DID NOT KNOW. CONOFF ASKED IF HE HAD AT ANY TIME BEEN INVOLVED WITH ANY POLICE OR GUARD DUTIES. HE SAID THAT HE HAD NOT.

10. DUDAR LEFT LUGA AROUND OCTOBER 1943. HE SAID HE WAS SCHEDULED TO BE TRANSFERRED TO YUGOSLAVIA. HOWEVER, DURING AN EIGHT-HOUR LAYOVER IN VIENNA HE WAS PAGED AT THE RAILROAD STATION AND GIVEN NEW ORDERS TO PROCEED TO PARIS.

11. IN PARIS HE WORKED IN THE MOTORPOOL AT LUFTWAFFE HEADQUARTERS ON THE CHAMPS-ELYSEE. ON HIS OF-230 HE HAD SAID THAT HE WAS IN LYON FROM OCTOBER 1943 TO JANUARY 1945; HOW LONG WAS HE IN PARIS? HE WAS ONLY IN PARIS FOR A SHORT TIME, AND HE DID NOT GO TO LYON VISAS DONKEY

UNTIL THE WAR WAS OVER (THAT IS, WHEN THE FIGHTING WAS OVER IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE). HE WAS TRANSFERRED FROM PARIS SHORTLY AFTER ARRIVING BECAUSE OF DISORDERLY CONDUCT. HE WAS THEN SENT TO TOULOUSE, WHERE HE SPENT ABOUT ONE YEAR CHARTING INCOMING ALLIED BOMBERS AND SOUNDING AIR RAID ALARMS. AT SOME POINT HE DECIDED TO DESERT AND HE WANDERED OFF WHILE ON A WALK; HE MADE HIS WAY TO A VILLAGE IN THE FRENCH BLACK FOREST NEAR BIARRITZ, WHERE HE ASKED THE PEOPLE THERE FOR HELP IN DESERTING. HE CLAIMS HE THEN JOINED THE "MAQUIS" (FRENCH UNDERGROUND), AND, ALONG WITH THREE OR FOUR OTHERS, WAS GIVEN THE JOB OF ARRESTING FRENCH FASCISTS AND GUARDING THEM IN JAIL. HIS PROOF FOR THIS IS A CRUMPLED AND MUCH-WORN TYPEWRITTEN HALF-SHEET OF PAPER WITH A WET SEAL ON IT WHICH STATES THAT HE JOINED THE MAQUIS ON MARCH 1, 1944 AND WAS DISCHARGED ON JANUARY 1, 1945.

12. HE CLAIMS THAT AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO RECRUIT HIM FOR THE FRENCH FOREIGN LEGION FOR SERVICE IN VIETNAM, BUT HE DECLINED. HE AND A GROUP OF POLISH FRIENDS WHO WERE ALSO DESERTERS FROM THE GERMAN FORCES THEN WENT TO LYON AND TOOK UP WORK AT A CHEMICAL FACTORY.

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HE LEFT FRANCE TO IMMIGRATE TO CANADA IN MARCH 1967.

13. IN CONTRAST TO HIS DEMEANOR DURING MOST OF THE INTERVIEW, WHEN THE TOPIC OF HIS RECENT ATTEMPTED ILLEGAL ENTRY INTO THE U.S. CAME UP AT THE END, HE BECAME QUITE AGITATED AND RATHER VIOLENTLY RE-ENACTED VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE EVENTS, SUCH AS LASHING OUT INTO THE AIR TO DEMONSTRATE HOW HE SNATCHED HIS BROTHER'S CANADIAN PASSPORT OFF HIS DRESSER. HE THEN WENT ON TO COMPLAIN ABOUT HOW THE IMMIGRATION OFFICERS HAD UNJUSTLY PERSECUTED HIM, AND HOW IT WAS SO UNJUST THAT HE, WHO HAD NEVER DONE ANYTHING WRONG, WOULD HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE REPLY TO THIS CABLE. IT WAS ESPECIALLY UNFAIR WHEN HE KNEW A NUMBER OF RUMANIAN "SS" MEN WITH THEIR I.D. NUMBERS TATTOOED UNDER THEIR ARMS WHO LIVED NEAR HIS HOUSE IN FLORIDA. HE SAID THAT HE HAD REPORTED THIS TO "A JEW LAWYER", BUT HAD BEEN TOLD NOT TO WORRY ABOUT IT. WHILE NONE OF THIS IS PARTICULARLY DAMNING, IT SUGGESTED TO CONOFF THAT IF A MORE ADVERSARIAL INTERVIEW WERE TO BE CONDUCTED THAT DUDAR MIGHT BE PROVOKED INTO REVEALING MORE DETAILS OF HIS PAST.

14. IN ADDITION TO THESE PROBLEMS, CONOFF FINDS MANY PARTS OF DUDAR'S DESCRIPTION OF HIS LIFE'S HISTORY TO BE QUESTIONABLE, AND THERE ARE A NUMBER OF GAPS IN HIS NARRATIVE. CONOFF IS NOT EVEN CERTAIN THAT DUDAR IS WHO HE CLAIMS TO BE BECAUSE HE HAS NO BIRTH CERTIFICATE; HE ONLY HAS A CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY THE INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE ORGANIZATION IN FRANCE IN 1949 WHICH GIVES THE FACTS OF HIS BIRTH (PRESUMABLY SUPPLIED BY HIM). HE PRESENTED NO DOCUMENTS FROM HIS TIME IN THE LUFTWAFFE, AND HIS DISCHARGE CERTIFICATE FROM THE MAQUIS SEEMS TO BE OF LITTLE VALUE. HIS TEN LATVIAN "CIVILIANS" SEEM ODD AS WELL. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO CONOFF, THERE WERE A LARGE NUMBER OF LATVIAN POLICE AND PARAMILITARY UNITS OPERATING IN THE AREA, WHICH SUPPLIED THE PERSONNEL FOR TWO "SS" DIVISIONS LATER IN THE WAR. IT SEEMS POSSIBLE TO CONOFF THAT DUDAR'S LATVIANS MAY NOT HAVE BEEN CIVILIANS, AND THAT HE AND THEY MAY HAVE HAD OTHER DUTIES BESIDES COLLECTING AIRPLANE PARTS. WHILE DUDAR MADE LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT HE HAD THE RANK OF CORPORAL, IT IS CONOFF'S BELIEF THAT PROMOTION WAS MUCH SLOWER IN THE GERMAN FORCES THAN IN THE U.S., AND THAT CORPORALS WERE OFTEN GIVEN POSITIONS OF HIGHER RESPONSIBILITY THAN THEIR AMERICAN COUNTERPARTS.

15. WHILE CONOFF IS NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE FORESTS IN THE AREA AROUND LENINGRAD, HE FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT SOMEONE COULD REGULARLY DRIVE A HEAVY TRUCK CROSS-COUNTRY THROUGH THEM. THE IDEA OF DRIVING AIRPLANE ENGINES AND PARTS ALL THE WAY TO WARSAW SEEMS TO MAKE NO SENSE FROM A MILITARY ORGANIZATIONAL POINT OF VIEW. IN THE FIRST PLACE, IT

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IS AN INCREDIBLE WASTE OF RESOURCES, AND IN THE SECOND, IT WOULD SEEM UNLIKELY THAT AN EXPERT IN AIRPLANE RECOVERY WOULD NOT BE EMPLOYED AT THAT TASK VISAS DONKEY

ON A REGULAR BASIS AND THE TRANSPORTATION OF THE RECOVERED PARTS LEFT TO SOMEONE ELSE.

16. IT IS WORTHY OF NOTE THAT HE SEEMS TO HAVE SPENT MOST OF HIS TIME IN AREAS NOTORIOUS FOR ATROCITIES OR HEADED FOR THEM. THERE ARE HIS MORE THAN TWO YEARS IN THE LUGA AREA, APPARENTLY AT LEAST ONCE IN THE VICINITY OF THE "SS", AND BEFORE HE WAS DIVERTED TO FRANCE HE WAS HEADED FOR ZAGREB, CAPITAL OF CROATIA. ON HIS OF-230 HE SAYS THAT HE WAS IN LYON (NOT PARIS OR TOULOUSE) FROM OCTOBER OF 1943 TO JANUARY OF 1945 AS A SOLDIER, AND STAYED ON AFTERWARDS UNTIL HE LEFT FRANCE IN 1967; THIS WOULD PLACE HIM THERE DURING THE TIME OF **KLAUS BARBIE**.

17. POST WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INSIGHT WHICH DEPARTMENT OR OTHER INTERESTED AGENCIES MIGHT BE ABLE PROVIDE ON THE CREDIBILITY OF DUDAR'S NARRATIVE.

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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